

OTHER NOTICES

Butler, J. A. V. *Inside the Living Cell.* London, 1959. Allen and Unwin. Pp. 174. Price 21s.

A COMPREHENSIVE AND not too technical account of life considered from the point of view of the cell, and especially the chemistry and fine structure of the cell, is much needed. Dr. Butler's book attempts the job and succeeds remarkably well. He deals with nutrition, protein production, enzyme action, virus and chromosome reproduction, the effects of radiation, the organization of development, the structure of plastids and other organellae as revealed by electron microscopy, nerve structure and brain action. Finally Dr. Butler touches on the great problem of "Life in the Universe". What more can we ask? Only one thing. It is that if the question of the meaning of evolution is to be discussed something must be said about how it happened. Natural selection has to be mentioned. It is not. And what a difference it makes to the conclusion!

C. D. DARLINGTON

Clarke, Edith. *My Mother who Fathered Me: A Study of the Family in Three Selected Communities in Jamaica.* London, 1957. Allen & Unwin. Pp. 216. Price 18s.

IN HIS PREFACE Sir Hugh Foot describes the author as "the most unusual combination of an able administrator and a skilled anthropologist". The research on which the study was founded was sponsored by the Colonial Social Research Council. The title refers to the custom by which responsibility for rearing the family falls almost entirely upon the mother.

I Congreso de la Familia Española.

THE FIRST CONGRESS on the Family to be held in Spain took place in December, 1958. Each delegate's contribution has been printed as a separate booklet and distributed by the General Secretariat of the Congress from Alcalá, 31. 5º Madrid.

Donohue, Wilma et al. (Editors). *Free Time: A Challenge to Later Maturity.* Ann Arbor, 1958.

University of Michigan Press. Pp. xii + 172. Price 36s.

The name of the publisher was unfortunately omitted from the notice which appeared on page 106 of the July number of the REVIEW.

Fisher, Ronald A. *The Genetical Theory of Natural Selection.* Second revised edition. New York, 1958. Dover Publications. London, Constable. Pp. xiv + 291. Price 15s.

A REVISED EDITION of Sir Ronald Fisher's classic examination of Darwinism and natural selection in the light of modern genetics which was first published in 1930.

Milbank Memorial Fund. *Selected Studies of Migration since World War II.* Proceedings of the Thirty-fourth Annual Conference of the Milbank Memorial Fund, held October 30-31st 1957 at the New York Academy of Medicine. Part III. New York, 1958. Milbank Memorial Fund. Pp. 244. Price \$1-00.

MIGRATION WAS CHOSEN as a Conference topic for the first time since 1946. The papers fall into three groups: International Context, Domestic Setting and Topical. The volume also contains some of the discussion which took place after the papers had been read.

Spencer, Robert F. *The North Alaskan Eskimo: A Study in Ecology and Society.* Washington, 1959. Smithsonian Institution. Bureau of American Ethnology. Bulletin 171. Pp. vi + 490. Price \$2.50.

THIS IS AN ethnological compendium prepared by the author after field work in 1952 and 1953 in the Point Barrow area of Alaska, mainly sponsored by the U.S. Office of Naval Research. The work was undertaken at this time, of obviously rapid transition of Eskimo culture, in order to catch the fleeting memories of the elderly survivors from more primitive days and ways. Much of the work is necessarily therefore based upon hearsay. There is little of direct eugenic import. Primitively, contraception was unknown though there was a hint of coitus

interruptus. The likenesses between members of successive generations were well appreciated, and "magical" means were sometimes employed in the hope of fostering specific attributes.

G. C. L. B.

Sprott, W. J. H. *Human Groups*. Harmondsworth, 1958. Penguin Books, Ltd., Pp. 219. Price 3s. 6d.

IN THIS BOOK, Professor Sprott seeks to sum up what has been discovered so far about group psychology. The type of group to which he refers is not just a random collection or an enumeration of all the persons with a particular characteristic. It is a set of people who meet face to face, either naturally, as in the family, or socially, as in the village, or experimentally, as in the psychologist's laboratory. The men, women and children in the group interact with one another, exchange views, form some sort of a code and often have a common purpose. It is the author's thesis that man derives his specifically human nature from his social relationships. If this new branch of science could be developed far enough, it might be possible to supplement eugenics, or favourable inheri-

tance, with what might be termed "eukoinics", or good companionship, in order to make the life of mankind happier and more useful.

Are we then to say that at present we know so little of how to live together? In the wider, international sense, no doubt, yes, but for the smaller groups it must be agreed that many useful rules of conduct have been evolved in clubs, societies and other kinds of association. These rules are largely empirical, however, and it is the attempt to establish and classify them scientifically that is new. What makes this book fascinating to read is to see how there are emerging from experiments the sorts of conclusions that the reader must himself have drawn from observing the deliberations of committees, clubs and official hierarchies. The chapter in which the performances of different forms of organization are contrasted, according to the way in which the work and responsibility are allocated, is particularly interesting.

Surprisingly, there seems to be no mention anywhere in the book of the pioneering work of Wilfrid Trotter in the field of group psychology.

P. R. C.

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